



Sailors Helping Sailors, Marines Helping Marines

This issue of *Mech* is a good example of why maintainers need to pay attention and help each other. Dropped drop-tanks, unintentional activation of flares or chaff, and inadvertent firing of CADs, all can spell trouble.

You may have heard of our Sailor-to-Sailor Safety program. We taped testimonials about DUIs, off-duty incidents, and on-duty mishaps; and I was horrified to listen to a maintainer tell the story of a flare mishap aboard a carrier last year.

In that incident, a shipmate was burned terribly. That mishap still is under investigation, so we can't discuss specifics or even share the video that we taped. However, it fits the theme of this current issue.

When maintainers don't pay attention, are tired, or don't use the book, bad things happen. Heed the

warnings found in each of these stories. Challenge your fellow maintainers to follow written instructions, adhere to good maintenance practices, and use all safety and protective equipment.

It never ceases to amaze me, when we have a preventable mishap, that no one stepped up to the plate to prevent it, despite obvious opportunity to do so. Sailor to Sailor, Marine to Marine...let's work together and stop these senseless errors and mishaps. One person can make a difference when you commit yourself to not allowing shoddy maintenance to occur at your command.

RADM A. J. Johnson

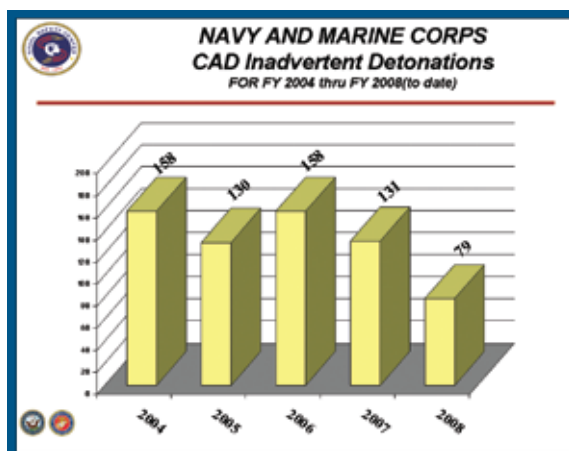
A Final Goodbye

By Dan Steber

This issue is about a problem we face from time to time: inadvertent activation of CADs, flares, and chaff. I threw in a few examples of dropped drop tanks, too, because we also have had a few of them.

The CAD numbers are clear, and I've included some for you to review. You can see that the numbers fluctuate, but they are excessive.

The admiral pointed out how bad it can get in his intro. I had the pleasure of filming those Sailor-to-Sailor spots and also suffered the pain of hearing some of those stories. The move to video has come to the Naval Safety Center, and I now will be involved with it on a day to day basis.



We hope to do some interesting things and already are introducing a podcast and vod-cast site. We have been shooting celebrity public service announcements, victim testimonials, and informational spots.

I hope to do some maintenance-related videos in the near future and do things of interest that also will be educational. That includes a series of spots on maintenance programs that will show what makes some

good and others bad.

It's been a joy for the past eight years to have been the editor. I'm moving into the video world, but maintainers will still be part of my work.